(c) and (d) In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court in Criminal Writ Petition No. 33 of 1997 (Sakshi *Vs* UOI) the Law Commission of India was asked to examine the provision relating to child sex abuse in the criminal justice system in the country covering Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act. The Law Commission in its 172nd report has made certain recommendations on these issues which has been further examined by the Justice Malimath Committee who have submitted its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 21st April, 2003.

Introduction of I.T. in school level education

4425. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Information Technology has been introduced in different States in the school level education;

(b) whether Government are aware that many of the economically backward States cannot afford to run IT education in schools on account of financial difficulties; and

(c) if so, what type of help Government are going to extend to the States in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The various States/UTs have recognized the benefits of Information Technology and its impact on education at every level and the need to create awareness among school students about computer education. Several States like Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur have launched their own initiatives in the field of computer education. In order to promote computer education in the country, the Department of Secondary and Higher Education has launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) scheme during 2001-2002. All the States/UTs are entitled to benefit from the scheme. As per the criteria adopted for the revised CLASS scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to State Governments/UTs on the basis of Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by them. The CEP would indicate the steps already taken by the State/UTs and the assistance, which they now require. The CEPs are examined by the Project Monitoring & Evaluation Group (PM & EG) headed by Education Secretary and funds are allocated to the States/UTs on

recommendations of PM & EG. Under the revised CLASS scheme, grant-in-aid is provided only to Government and Government-aided schools. During 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 140.74 crores had been sanctioned to 19 States/UTs. During 2002-2003, an amount of Rs. 10,29,30,000 has been released as 2nd instalment to 6 States.

Besides, as per information received from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Department of Information Technology has launched the pilot project of Vidya Vahini to integrate internet and intranet tools and computer aided techniques into the learning environment. The programme focuses on providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, training of the teachers to use ICT for imparting education, course curriculum and other learning material to the Government/Government aided schools in the country. The Vidya Vahini Project has been implemented in 140 schools in 7 districts (20 schools in each district) and 7 teacher's training centres in six States namely :—

(i) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

(ii) Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)

(iii) Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)

(iv) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)

(v) Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh)

(vi) Parli Vaijnath (Maharashtra)

(vii) South 24-Parganas (West Bengal)

The entire cost of providing equipments at the schools and training centres has been provided by the Government of India. The expenditure on site preparation and providing computer furniture, electricity connection and telephone connection has been borne by the State Government.

Affiliation of IT colleges

4426. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :